

ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

Date 23 May 85

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REMARKS

Jerry: FYI, the memo I've sent to the ambassador bringing him up to date on INTERNET planning. The only sensitive issue, I think, is that of staff personnel. We're obviously in the clear for FY 1985, but we may run into some problems next fiscal year if more slots are needed. Suspect this will be a topic of discussion when you visit here in the late summer/early fall. dcr

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**FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
AMERICAN EMBASSY
PANAMA, REP. OF PANAMA**

23 May 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Ambassador Everett E. Briggs
American Embassy
Panama, R.P.

FROM :
Chief, FBIS Panama Bureau

STAT

SUBJECT : Update on INTERNET Planning

REFERENCE : My 13 November 1984 memo to you, subj., FBIS Panama
Bureau Staffing Needs for ROSET, INTERNET

1. In a followup to the referent memorandum, I briefed you on 14 November 1984 on FBIS plans for INTERNET and its impact on Panama Bureau. The INTERNET project, you may recall, involves the linking of five FBIS bureaus with one another and with Washington Headquarters through wideband, commercial satellite communications. The initial sites will be at Panama and London bureaus and Washington. The purpose of this memorandum is to bring you up to date on INTERNET planning.

2. I received a call from FBIS Deputy Director Harrison Markham on 21 May confirming that COMSAT had been chosen as the contractor for INTERNET. According to Markham, COMSAT has been in touch with Panama's INTEL to discuss the details of the Panama site. COMSAT representatives will be in Panama on 7 June for further discussions with INTEL officials. Specifically, they will be discussing the location of the ground station (which may be INTEL's ground station near Torrijos Airport), the communication linkage between that station and Panama Bureau, the nature of the transponder lease from INTELSAT, and costs involved. The COMSAT representatives will then fly to London, where they will discuss similar issues with British authorities.

3. Following my briefing of you last November, you had expressed agreement in principle to INTERNET, but you also voiced understandable concern over possible staff increases tied to the project. Clearly, given the slippage to date on this project, there will be no call for additional staff in FY 1985. I may ask for an additional staff position in FY 1986 for INTERNET, but it is quite possible that INTERNET can function without additional staff. I'll know much more on this score after the COMSAT representatives have made their visit here and I have reviewed the project during my upcoming TDY in Washington.

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4. I will be happy to discuss the project in greater detail if you wish. I am, of course, keeping Darrell Sponberg of Treaty Affairs current on these developments.



Chief, Panama Bureau, FBIS

STAT

cc: Acting Counselor for
Administrative Affairs

ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

Date

7 JUN 1985

TO: (Name, office symbol, room number,
building, Agency/Post)

Initials

Date

1.

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2.

C/Mod

[Signature]

6/7

3.

4.

5.

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REMARKS

FYI - This appears to be another of SDS paper generating activities. What they plan on discussing about the "INTERNET" facility is anybody's guess but I suspect it means the location and function of the watch/ops controller.

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C/ED

Phone No.

I suggest that perhaps
Gary should go since it
will certainly impact the
TV center as well. We will
send someone to all of
these as well.
attended with Isaac
this time.

STAT

Yes. Mod should also
attend. In a

LOGNOTE: FACILITIES WORKI GROUP MEETING

To: Chief, ED/FBIS

STAT

The first meeting of the Facilities Working Group for Modernization was held on 4 June. The working group membership, facilities documentation and control, documents delivery dates, and contents of the documents were discussed.

The facilities working group consists of representatives from SDS, SDS system integration contractor, building architects, and the prime contractor. SDS will coordinate attendance for other personnel based upon the meeting agenda. So far only 2200 square feet of space that is designated as computer space on the eleventh floor of the Key Building has been addressed by the working group and there are many unknown factors for this computer space. It has to be determined whether the prime contractor or the Agency Real Estate and Construction will be responsible for the construction and the Charles E. Smith limitations on the Key Building alterations have to be identified and factored into the facilities documentation. Additionally, the details for other space in the Key Building and JPRS have to be established. The next meeting is scheduled for 18 July and INTERNET facility is a topic for discussion.

STAT